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[redacted] JJCrowley MFR 29 Jul 69 25X1
sub: CORONA Program Plann'g

CORONA PHASE-OUT

As a result of the failure of the Msn 1107 forward-looking camera on the first "operate" command after injection into orbit, Mr. Crowley held conference with Lockheed, Itek and AF personnel and his own OSP staff to look into CORONA problems to be overcome so that the phase-out period would be a "zero defects" period [redacted]

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Previously planned action to integrate CORONA [redacted] staffs in order to make most efficient use of experienced personnel: 1st step to establish one Photographic Systems Division to be implemented as of 1 Aug 1969. [redacted] to become Program Director for both projects, and responsible to D/OSP for assuring proper interprogram planning so that continuity of search and surveillance coverage is insured..

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Also as part of reorg., JJC to transfer to West Coast COR program three experienced technical personnel from PSD.

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[redacted] to assume duty as Mgr of the Integrated West Coast Photo Systems Office. (he was director of the COR Program from 65 through 68.

[redacted] to become Chief of W/C Tech Staff (he was Tech Dir of COR Program from 65 thru 67.

[redacted] to become responsible for addtl duties extensive experience in CORONA ops since 1964 and as Program Director 1968-69.

No evidence from early review of Quality Assurance problems in 1107 failure. Crowley found real problem existing in area of maintaining qualified personnel on COR program for phse-out. [redacted] A/c technicians at A/P concerned about their future, some of better ones have left for reasons of job security elsewhere.

Crowley recommended that a physical transfer of COR opn be made to Sunnyvale where Lockheed technicians could be supplied for tasks now accomplished by [redacted]

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Shelf life of COR hardware, and procurement of spares was also a critical matter. Review of both issues ordered.

(more)

CORONA FLT failures during 1968-69

- 1) Msn 1048 - Sept 1968: Forward-looking camera failed after 2/3 of the msn completed. Most probable cause in main drive assembly.
- 2) Msn 1049 - Dec 1968: Msn degraded due to high temp. Msn rated fair to poor; however, program coverage rqmts were met.
- 3) Msn 1106 - Feb 69: Aft-looking camera failed during "B" portion of msn at or near film splice in last 1000 feet of film.
- 4) Msn 1050 - Mar 69: Camera system operated normally; however, the msn duration was curtailed by an Agena guidance system failure.
- 5) Msn 1051 - May 69: Imagery had out-of-focus appearance and was rated only poor to fair. Msn, however, met program coverage rqmts.

Other problems "on orbit" related to Digital Shift Register and image motion compensation programmers. Most problems adequately handled by real time commands by opnl personnel. Msn 1107 was the first camera system failure which precluded attainment of msn objectives, i.e., usable stereo photos.